

JANICE HAHN
44TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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CO-CHAIR



WASHINGTON OFFICE:
404 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8220

COMPTON OFFICE:
205 S. WILLOWBROOK AVE.
COMPTON, CA 90220
(310) 605-5520

CARSON OFFICE:
701 E. CARSON ST.
CARSON, CA 90745
(310) 830-7600 EXT. 1038

SAN PEDRO OFFICE:
140 W. 6TH ST.
SAN PEDRO, CA 90731
(310) 831-1799

SOUTH GATE OFFICE:
8650 CALIFORNIA AVE.
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280
(323) 563-9562

WILMINGTON OFFICE:
544 AVALON BLVD., STE. 307
WILMINGTON, CA 90744
(310) 549-8282

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0544

May 13, 2016

The Honorable Gina McCarthy
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator McCarthy,

I am writing regarding the water quality in Watts, one of the communities that I represent in Los Angeles, California. This past Wednesday, students at Grape Street Elementary School were given bottled water because the tap water was murky and discolored.

I am concerned because Grape Street is one of five schools to raise concerns over water safety in recent weeks. Administrators at Compton Avenue, Florence Griffith Joyner, 96th Street and Lovelia Flournoy elementary schools have also complained of murky tap water. In addition, residents found out that in January they received untreated well-water and were not notified.

At this week's Los Angeles City Council meeting, the City Council Members Marqueece Harris-Dawson and Joe Buscaino called attention to the murky water and asked for the Department of Water and Power (DWP) to explain why residents were not notified of the untreated water.

I understand that DWP tested the water and found no bacteria and the chlorinated levels met federal guidelines. **However, out of an abundance of caution, I think testing by the EPA would be prudent to protect the health and safety of the residents of Watts.** I want to ensure that the water is safe to drink and bathe.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Janice Hahn
Member of Congress